



WHAT'S NEW - DESERTS

Arnold Palmer's Restaurant. The world-famous golfer is opening a new restaurant in La Quinta in November 2003. Located just a few blocks from Palmer's home, the restaurant has four dining rooms, bar area, a 100-seat patio overlooking a nine-hole Palmer-designed putting course, and live entertainment. The menu features some of Arnold's favorite dishes, such as prime steaks, meatloaf, pot roast, chicken pot pie and beef stroganoff. A special Chef's Menu offers swordfish, crackling pork shank and a very unique lobster macaroni and cheese. Bar opens at 3 p.m., and the dinner is served from 5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. **Public contact:** Arnold Palmer's, 760/771-GOLF (4653).

Furnace Creek Inn & Ranch Resort. The historic Furnace Creek Inn, situated in Death Valley National Park, re-opened for the fall, winter and spring season in October. Closed for renovations over the summer and refurbished to its 1930s splendor, this lush 66-room oasis still offers the grace and refinement of a by-gone era. The adjacent Furnace Creek Ranch, a perfect complement to the Inn's classic elegance, was also refurbished. The resort offers a variety of activities including two spring-fed swimming pools, a renovated golf course, lighted tennis courts and seasonal horseback riding. **Public contact:** Furnace Creek Inn & Ranch Resort, 760/786-2345, www.furnacecreekresort.com.

Historic Inns of Palm Springs. The first edition of *Historic Inns of Palm Springs*, an official publication of the Palm Springs Bureau of Tourism, features 26 historic inns dating back to the 1920's. Each hotel listing offers multiple full-color photos, a legend of the amenities, and a historic account of how the property was established. This 63-page, in-depth directory will be available annually to consumers, and domestic and international travel trade. Copies of the 2003-2004 *Historic Inns of Palm Springs* are available by calling 888/866-2744 or on the bureau's Web site www.palm-springs.org.

La Casa Del Zorro Desert Resort. New for the 2003/2004 season at La Casa del Zorro Desert Resort will be tours of the Anza-Borrego Dessert State Park. The off-road, four-wheel-drive, eco-tourism outings designed by the resort will offer diversity of experiences in the most beautiful and interesting locations of the park, as well as sites of geological and historical significance. Tour options include the “Desert Sampler,” “Split Mountain,” “Borrego Badlands,” “Butterfly History,” “Carrizo Badlands,” “Sandstone Canyon via Split Mountain,” “Salton Sea” and “Palms to Pines.” Led by the park’s former staff naturalist, a noted author and photographer, Paul Johnson, the full-day tours will cost \$150 per person (including a lunch) and half-day tours will be \$75. **Public contact: La Casa Del Zorro Desert Resort, 800/824-1884 or 760/767-5323, www.lacasadelzorro.com.**

La Quinta Resort & Club®. The legendary La Quinta Resort & Club®, once home to Hollywood greats Frank Capra, Bette Davis and Clark Gable, recently completed a three-year renovation. With its historical charm retained, the resort now boasts 177 new spa villas, updated interiors in all 800 guestrooms, and the addition of private poolside cabanas featuring teak furniture, ceiling fans, telephones, luxurious robes and data ports. The \$60 million dollar renovation includes updated furniture and soft goods in all guestrooms, new artwork, carpet, lighting and Talavera tile highlights in the bathrooms. The resort’s new restaurant, AZUR by Le Bernardin™, features the cuisine, ambiance and understated elegance of the internationally acclaimed Le Bernardin in New York City. AZUR by Le Bernardin™ is an elegant French seafood restaurant that offers diners a delicate and innovative menu specializing in the freshest seafood. **Public contact: La Quinta Resort & Club®, 888/564-5757 or 760/564-4111, www.laquintaresort.com.**

Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. Opened since May, Elevations restaurant brings fine dining to the top of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. Located at the 8,156-foot mountain station, the restaurant offers diners a breathtaking view of the desert below as they enjoy California and French cuisine. Elevations is open daily for lunch and dinner.

Reservations are highly recommended (760/327-1590). **Public contact: Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, 760/325-1449, ext. 118; www.pstramway.com.**

Palm Springs Desert Museum. The word desert can create many visions one of which is a hoard of dangerous creatures armed with fangs, stingers and lethal venoms. For persons with such a view walking through the desert is considered no less life-threatening than strolling through a mine field—a single wrong step can bring one face to face with a deadly snake, spider or scorpion. The *Jeepers Creepers* exhibition, on view until October 26, 2004, educates the public on which animals are dangerous and which are not. **Public contact: Palm Springs Desert Museum, 760/325-0189, www.psmuseum.org.**

Palm Springs Desert Resorts. Two airlines announced their expansion of year-round service to the Palm Springs Desert Resorts, making it more convenient than ever to visit the world-famous desert paradise. Delta Airlines now operates the five-seat Bombardier CRJ regional jet, departing Palm Springs at 6:55 a.m. and arriving in Salt Lake City at 9:30 a.m. The return flight departs Salt Lake City at 9:25 a.m. to arrive in Palm Springs at 10:01 a.m. In addition, Alaska Airlines announced year-round service to Seattle with multiple daily nonstop flights. **Public contact: Delta Airlines, 800/221-1212, www.delta.com; Alaska Airlines, 800/ALASKAAIR (252-7522), www.alaskaairlines.com.**

Path of the Bighorn®. Inspired by Catalina's "Buffalo in Paradise", Elk Grove's "Elk on Parade" and L.A.'s "Community of Angels", and focused on endangered Peninsular bighorn sheep, "Path of the Bighorn®" is a public art project launched in February. The exhibit features more than 100 painted, life-size sculptures of the sheep placed in locations throughout the Palm Springs Desert Resorts communities for public viewing. Driving and walking maps of the locations are distributed through Coachella Valley's chambers of commerce and tourism bureaus. The goal of the project is to increase public awareness of this endangered species through the language of art and the exhibit's promotion as a tourist attraction. Many of the sculptures were decorated by celebrity artists, including Cher, Chevy Chase, Phyllis Diller and Stefanie Powers. The exhibit

runs through spring 2004, at which time the sculptures will be auctioned off with the proceeds benefiting endangered Peninsular bighorn sheep research and conservation efforts. **Public contact:** www.pathofthebighorn.com.